Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A biocompatible, hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition comprising a cross-linked gelatin and a sufficient amount of a ~~liquid~~ wetting agent solution to permit uniform wetting of the gelatin in the presence of an aqueous solution, wherein the wetting agent solution is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyalkylenes, ether capped polyoxyalkylenes, ester capped polyoxyalkylenes, sorbitan esters, phosphatides, alkyl amines, glycerin, polymers, and surfactants.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The hemostatic cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is impregnated with the gelatin prior to a foaming process of the gelatin.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The hemostatic cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is mixed with the gelatin prior to a foaming process of the gelatin.

Claim 4. (original) The hemostatic cross-linked gelatin of Claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is coated over the surface of the gelatin.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A method for decreasing the hydration time of a hemostatic cross linked gelatin composition which method comprises, prior to hydration of said cross-linked gelatin composition, incorporating a biocompatible ~~liquid~~ wetting agent solution with said

cross-linked gelatin, wherein the wetting agent solution is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyalkylenes, ether capped polyoxyalkylenes, ester capped polyoxyalkylenes, sorbitan esters, phosphatides, alkyl amines, glycerin, polymers, and surfactants.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein said incorporation is achieved by mixing the wetting agent with the gelatin prior to foaming said cross-linked gelatin.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein said incorporation is achieved by impregnating the gelatin with the wetting agent prior to foaming said cross-linked gelatin.

Claim 8. (original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said incorporation is achieved by coating the wetting agent over the surface of the gelatin.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The hemostatic cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition is bioabsorbable.

Claim 10. (original) The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claim 1, further comprising one or more compositions selected from the group consisting of growth factors, thrombus enhancing agents, and antimicrobial agents.

Claim 11. (original) The hemostatic, cross-linked gelatin composition of Claims 2 or 3, wherein the wetting agent comprises 0. 1 to 10 weight percent of the gelatin.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the coating is achieved by applying to the surface of the gelatin a solution consisting of a liquid solvent and the wetting agent, wherein the concentration of the wetting agent in the solution is from 1 to 20 percent of the solution.

Claim 13. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the liquid solvent is evaporated from the surface of the gelatin.

Claim 14. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the concentration of the wetting agent, after evaporation of the liquid solvent, is from 0.01 to 5 weight percent of the gelatin composition.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The biocompatible, hemostatic sponge of Claim 1, wherein the gelatin is sterilized and packaged for use in surgical procedures.

Claim 16. (original) A kit of parts for preparing a biocompatible, hemostatic cross-linked gelatin composition comprising a syringe and a non-hydrated pledget, said pledget consisting of cross-linked gelatin and wetting agent.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 further comprising foaming said cross-linked gelatin.